

REMARKS

This responds to the Office Action mailed on April 7, 2006.

Claims 1, 14 and 25 are amended, no claims are canceled or added; as a result, claims 1-37 remain pending in this application.

§102 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1-3, 5-10, 13-15, 18-23, 24-27, 29-34 and 37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) for anticipation by Flake et al. (US 5,832,451). Anticipation requires the disclosure in a single prior art reference of each element of the claim under consideration. *In re Dillon* 919 F.2d 688, 16 USPQ 2d 1897, 1908 (Fed. Cir. 1990) (en banc), cert. denied, 500 U.S. 904 (1991). It is not enough, however, that the prior art reference discloses all the claimed elements in isolation. Rather, “[a]nticipation requires the presence in a single prior reference disclosure of each and every element of the claimed invention, *arranged as in the claim*.” *Lindemann Maschinenfabrik GmbH v. American Hoist & Derrick Co.*, 730 F.2d 1452, 221 USPQ 481, 485 (Fed. Cir. 1984) (citing *Connell v. Sears, Roebuck & Co.*, 722 F.2d 1542, 220 USPQ 193 (Fed. Cir. 1983)) (emphasis added). Applicant respectfully submits that Flake does not anticipate claims 1-3, 5-10, 13-15, 18-23, 24-27, 29-34 and 37 because the claims contain elements not found in Flake.

For example, claim 1 as amended recites “associating in the traveler database a subset of the plurality of travelers with a travel arranger” and further recites:

“receiving a request from a travel arranger for at least one travel service;
displaying a user interface providing the subset of the plurality of travelers associated with the travel arranger;
receiving through the user interface a selection of a traveler from the subset of the plurality of travelers;”

Claims 14 and 25 as amended recite similar elements. Applicant has thoroughly reviewed Flake and can find no teaching or suggestion of associating a travel arranger with a subset of travelers. Further, Flake does not teach or suggest presenting a user interface allowing the selection of a traveler associated with a travel arranger. As a result, Flake does not teach

each and every element of Applicant's claims 1, 14 and 25. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 14 and 25.

Claims 2-3, 5-10 and 13 depend from claim 1; claims 15, 18-24 depend from claim 14; and claims 26-27, 29-34 and 37 depend from claim 25. These dependent claims inherit the elements of their respective base claims and are allowable for the reasons argued above, and are also patentable in view of the additional elements which they provide to the patentable combination. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2-3, 5-10, 13, 15, 18-24, 26-27, 29-34 and 37.

§103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 4 and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Flake et al. (US 5,832,451) in view of Bull et al. (US 5,995,943).

Claims 11 and 35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Flake et al. (US 5,832,451) in view of Iyengar et al. (US 6,360,205).

Claims 12 and 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Flake et al. (US 5,832,451) in view of Harris et al. (US 2002/0108109).

Claims 16 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Flake et al. (US 5,832,451) in view of Lynch et al. (US 6,119,094).

In order for a *prima facie* case of obviousness to exist, three base criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art, and not based on applicant's disclosure. *M.P.E.P.* § 2142 (citing *In re Vaeck*, 947 F.2d 488, 20 USPQ2d 1438 (Fed.Cir. 1991)). Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of references cited in each rejection fails to teach or suggest each and every element of the claims as amended.

For example, each of claims 4, 11, 12, 16, 17, 28, and 35-36 depend either directly or indirectly from claims 1, 14 or 25. Thus these dependent claims inherit the elements of the respective base claims, including elements discussed above related to associating a travel arranger with a subset of travelers in a traveler database, and providing a user interface displaying the subset of travelers upon identifying a travel arranger making a travel request. As discussed above, Flake fails to teach or suggest the above-mentioned elements. In addition, Applicant has carefully reviewed Bull, Iyengar, Harris and Lynch and can find no teaching or suggestion of associating a travel arranger with a subset of a plurality of travelers in a database and providing a user interface displaying the subset, or receiving a selection of a traveler from the displayed subset. As a result, the combination of Flake with any of, Iyengar, Harris and Lynch does not teach or suggest each and every element of claims 4, 11, 12, 16, 17, 28, and 35-36. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 4, 11, 12, 16, 17, 28, and 35-36.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney (612) 373-6954 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

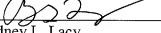
Respectfully submitted,

GREG UDELHOVEN ET AL.

By their Representatives,

SCHWEGMAN, LUNDBERG, WOESSNER & KLUTH, P.A.
P.O. Box 2938
Minneapolis, MN 55402
(612) 373-6954

Date September 7, 2006

By 
Rodney L. Lacy
Reg. No. 41,136

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being filed using the USPTO's electronic filing system EFS-Web, and is addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 7th day of September, 2006.

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